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LETTER from the Right Honour-  
able Lord P-----d---t to Lord L-v-t,  
dated, I-----fs, October 28. 1745.

Lord L-v-t's LETTER, in Answer to  
Lord P-----d---t's, dated, B----f---t,  
October 29. 1745.



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*LETTER from the Right Honourable Lord  
P——d——t to Lord L-v-t, dated, 1——fs,  
October 28. 1745.*

*My LORD,*

**A**S I have now the Honour of being charged with the publick Affairs in this Part of the Kingdom, I can no longer remain a Spectator of your Lordship's Conduct, and see the double Game you have played for some Time past, without betraying the Trust reposed in me, and at once risking my Reputation, and the Fidelity I owe to his Majesty as a good Subject. Your Lordship's Actions now discover evidently your Inclinations, and leave us no further in the Dark about what Side you are to chuse in the present unhappy Insurrection. You have now so far pulled off the Mask, that we can see the Mark you aim at; tho', on former Occasions, you have had the Skill and Address to disguise your Intentions in Matters of far less Importance. And indeed methinks a little more of your Lordship's wonted Artifice would not have been amiss, whatever had been your private Sentiments with Respect to this unnatural Rebellion. You should, my Lord, have duly considered and estimated the Advantages that would arise to your Lordship from its Success, and balanced them with the Risks you run if it should happen to miscarry; and above all Things you ought to have consulted your own Safety, and allowed that the chief Place in your System of Politicks; which, I persuade myself, would have induced your Lordship to have played the Game after quite a different Manner, and with a much greater Degree of Caution and Policy. But so far has your Lordship been from acting with your ordinary *Finesse* and Circumspection on this Occasion,



on, that you sent away your Son and the best Part of your Clan to join the Pretender, with as little Concern as if no Danger had attended such a Step. I say, sent them away; for we are not to imagine they went of themselves, or would have ventured to take Arms without your Lordship's Concurrence and Approbation. This, however, you are pretty sure can't be easily proved; which, I believe indeed, may be true. But I can't think it will be a difficult Matter to make it appear, that the whole Strain of your Lordship's Conversation in every Company where you have appeared since the Pretender's Arrival, has tended to pervert the Minds of his Majesty's Subjects, and seduce them from their Allegiance. And give me Leave to tell you, my Lord, even this falls under the Construction of Treason, and is no less liable to Punishment than open Rebellion; as I am afraid your Lordship will find, when once this Insurrection is crushed, and the Government at Leisure to examine into the Affair. And I am sorry to tell you, my Lord, that I could sooner undertake to plead the Cause of any one of those unhappy Gentlemen who are just now actually in Arms against his Majesty, and I could say more in Defence of their Conduct, than I could in Defence of your Lordship's. The Duke of *Perth* and Lord *Ogilvy* never qualified, nor did they ever receive the smallest Favour from the present Government; but, on the contrary, were both stripped of their Titles and Honours, and from Men of the first Quality reduced to the State of private Gentlemen, since the Revolution; and may both be supposed to act from a Principle of Resentment, and only took up Arms to recover what they thought themselves unjustly deprived of. Lord *George Murray* never had any Place or Pension from the Publick, and was, no doubt, drawn in by the Influence of the Marquis of *Tullibardin*, perhaps touched with Pity and Commiseration for his eldest Brother, who has spent the best Part of his Life in Exile, and undoubtedly upon an Allowance much inferior to his Dignity. These, and such like Apologies, may be offered in Defence of most of the leading Men in the present Rebellion. But what shall



shall I say in Favour of you, my Lord? You, who have flourish'd under the present happy Establishment? You, who, in the Beginning of your Days, forfeited both your Life and Fortune, and yet, by the Benignity of the Government, was not only indulg'd the Liberty of living at Home, but even restored to all you could lay Claim to? Nay, his Majesty's Goodness went so far as to employ your Lordship in his Service, and was pleas'd to honour you with the Command of one of the independent Companies that were rais'd some Years ago in the *Highlands*; which you enjoy'd for a very long Time. So that both Duty and Gratitude ought to have influenced your Lordship's Conduct, at this critical Juncture, and dispos'd you to have acted a Part quite different from what you have done. But there are some Men whom no Duty can bind, nor no Favour can oblige; and, I'm afraid, if a timely Repentance don't prevent it, your Lordship will, not unjustly, be ranked among that Number.

You now see, my Lord, how unanimous the People of *England* are against the Pretender, and what Forces they ~~are Mustering up to oppose him,~~ The King has order'd home his Troops, several Noblemen have rais'd Regiments at their own Expences; and every County and Corporation throughout the Kingdom, are entering into Associations, in Defence of the present Establishment: So that these few unhappy Gentlemen who are engag'd in this Rebellion, will have Armies after Armies to Encounter; and, if your Lordship entertains any hopes of their Success, you will find your Mistake, when it is too late to amend it. What I would therefore propose to your Lordship, as the only expedient left to rescue you from the Hazard of a rigorous Prosecution, is, to recal your Son and his Men immediately. This Step, I am persuad'd, would produce several good Consequences: For, on the one Hand, it would prevent Numbers from joining the Rebels, who now Hang in Suspence; and, on the other, occasion a great many of those already engag'd, to desert, and retire to their respective Habitations; and perhaps, may be the Means of crushing the Rebellion without

without further Bloodshed; which would do your Lordship a great Deal of Honour, and such a remarkable Piece of Service would be amply rewarded by the Government. If you shall judge it proper, my Lord, to follow this Advice, it will give me a great Deal of Pleasure, as it will contribute to stop the Progress of an unhappy Civil War, that threatens us with endless Calamities; but if your Lordship continues obstinate, and will not Order your Men to disband, and return Home, I shall be obliged to take you into Custody, be the Event what it will; and then your Lordship will run the Risk of having your Family extirpate, as well as other of the Highland Chiefs, when the Rebellion is once quelled. Now, my Lord, I have told your Lordship my Sentiments pretty freely, and no less out of Friendship to your Lordship than Duty to the Publick. I might have advanced many other Arguments, to induce your Lordship to follow my Advice; but methinks what I have already said, is sufficient: and so I shall only further add, that I am, &c.

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*Lord L---v---t's Letter, in Answer to the foregoing, dated, B---f---t, October, 29. 1745.*

*My Dear Lord,*

I Received the Honour of your Lordships Letter, late last Night, of Yesterday's Date, and I own, I never received one like it since I was born; and I give your Lordship ten thousand Thanks for the kind Freedom you use with me in it: For I see, by it, that, for my Misfortune in having an obstinate stubborn Son, and an ungrateful Kindred, my Family must go to Destruction; and I must lose my Life in my old Age. Such Usage looks rather like a *Turkish* or *Persian* Government, than like a *British*: Am I, my Lord, the first Father that has had an undutiful and unnatural Son? Or, am I, the first Man that has made a good Estate, and saw it destroyed in his own

own Time by the mad foolish Actings of an unnatural Son, who prefers his own extravagant Fancies to the solid Advice of an affectionate old Father? I have seen Instances of this in my own Time; but never heard till now, that the Foolishness of a Son would take away the Life and Liberty of a Father, that lived peaceably, and was an honest Man, and well inclined to the rest of Mankind. But, I find, the longer a Man lives, the more wonders and extraordinary Things he sees.

Now, my dear Lord, I beg Leave to tell you my Mind freely in my Turn: I thank GOD, I was born with very little Fear in my greatest Difficulties and Dangers by Sea and Land; and, by GOD's Assistance, I often saved my Life by the Firmness and Steadiness of my Resolutions: And tho' I have now but little Remains of a Life that is clogged with Infirmities and Pain; yet, by GOD's Help, I am resolved to preserve it as long as I can. And tho' my Son should go away with the young People of his Clan, yet I will have six hundred brave ~~English~~ <sup>English</sup> at Home, many of them ~~about my own Age~~, that will lose the last Drop of their Blood to preserve my Person; and I do assure your Lordship, if I am attacked, that I will sell my Life as dear as I can: For since I am as peaceable a Subject as any in the Kingdom, and as ready to pay the King's Taxes, and to do every Thing else that a faithful Subject ought to do, I know no Law or Reason that my Person should not be in Safety.

I did use, and will use the strongest Arguments that my Reason can suggest to me, by my Cousin Gort--l--g, that he may repete them to my Son, and if they should not prevail, is it any Ways just or equitable that I should be punishable for the Faults of my Son? Now, my dear Lord, as to the unhappy Civil War that occasions my Misfortunes, and in which, almost the whole Kingdom is involved, on one Side or other, I humbly think that Men should be moderate on both Sides, since it is morally impossible to know the Event; for Thousands, nay Ten Thousands on both Sides, are positive that their own Party will carry. And suppose that this venturous Prince should be utterly defeat,



defeat, and that the Government should carry all in Triumph, no Man can think, that any King upon the Throne would destroy so many ancient good Families, for engaging in a Cause that was always their Principle, and what they thought their Duty to support.

King *William* was as great a King, as to his Knowledge of Government and Politicks, as sat for many Hundred Years upon the Throne of *England*; and when his General, who was one of the best in *Europe*, was defeat and forced to run to save his Life, and all his Army routed at *Killichranky* by a Handful of *Highlanders* not full 2000 in Number, King *William* was so far from desiring to extirpate them, that he sent the Earl of *Breadalbane* with 25000 *L. Sterling*, and sought no other Condition from them, than that they should live peaceably at Home. So, my Lord, we cannot imagine, that, tho' the *Highlanders* should be defeat at this Time, and most of them killed, and the Government full Master of the Kingdom, that any Administration would be so cruel, as to endeavour to extirpate the whole Remains of the *Highlanders*. Besides, it would be a dangerous Enterprise, which neither we nor our Children would see at an End. I pray GOD we may never see such a Scene in our Country, as Subjects killing and destroying their Fellow-subjects.

For my Part, my Lord, I am resolved to live a peaceable Subject in my own House, and do nothing against the King or Government; and if I am attacked, if it was by the King's Guards, and his Captain-General at their Head, I will defend myself as long as I have Breath in me: And if I am killed here, it is not far to my Burial-place, and I will have, after I am dead, what I always wish'd, the *Coronach* of all the Women in my Country to convey my Body to my Grave; and that was my Ambition when I was in my happiest Situation in the World.

*I am your Lordship's, &c.*

B——rt, October

29, 1745.

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